

LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

The “Language of Flowers” was a major trend of the 1800s, particularly among the young and the wealthy. Many books and pamphlets were published that claimed to teach how to arrange carefully selected blooms and cuttings to convey different messages.



Many plants already had established meanings drawn from myth, tradition, or even medicinal use. Many more had meanings that were invented during this era specifically to cater to the craze for coded bouquets.

This glossary of flower meanings comes from the Old Farmer’s Almanac, though many of the meanings it lists can be found in earlier European texts, as the practice had been popular in France for decades before it reached the United States in the mid-1800s.

<i>Aloe</i>	<i>Affection, also grief</i>	<i>Iris</i>	<i>A message</i>
<i>Amaryllis</i>	<i>Pride</i>	<i>Ivy</i>	<i>Friendship, fidelity</i>
<i>Apple Blossom</i>	<i>Preference</i>	<i>Jasmine, white</i>	<i>Sweet love, amiability</i>
<i>Aster</i>	<i>Symbol of love, daintiness</i>	<i>Lavender</i>	<i>Distrust</i>
<i>Sweet Basil</i>	<i>Good wishes</i>	<i>Lemon balm</i>	<i>Sympathy</i>
<i>Begonia</i>	<i>Beware, dark thoughts</i>	<i>Lilac</i>	<i>Joy of youth</i>
<i>Black-eyed Susan</i>	<i>Justice</i>	<i>Lilly, calla</i>	<i>Beauty</i>
<i>Butterfly Weed</i>	<i>Let me go</i>	<i>Magnolia</i>	<i>Love of nature</i>
<i>Camellia, pink</i>	<i>Longing for you</i>	<i>Marigold</i>	<i>Despair, grief, jealousy</i>
<i>Camellia, red</i>	<i>You’re a flame in my heart</i>	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Virtue</i>
<i>Camellia, white</i>	<i>You’re adorable</i>	<i>Morning glory</i>	<i>Affection</i>
<i>Carnation</i>	<i>Women, love</i>	<i>Oak</i>	<i>Strength</i>
<i>Chrysanthemum, yellow</i>	<i>Slighted love</i>	<i>Oregano</i>	<i>Substance</i>
<i>Dahlia, single</i>	<i>Good taste</i>	<i>Pansy</i>	<i>Thoughts</i>
<i>Daisy</i>	<i>Innocence, hope</i>	<i>Peony</i>	<i>Bashful, happy life</i>
<i>Fennel</i>	<i>Flattery</i>	<i>Poppy, red</i>	<i>Consolation</i>
<i>Fern</i>	<i>Sincerity, humility</i>	<i>Rose, red</i>	<i>Love, I love you</i>
<i>Forget-me-not</i>	<i>True love memories</i>	<i>Rose, yellow</i>	<i>Jealousy, decrease of love</i>
<i>Gardenia</i>	<i>Secret love</i>	<i>Sage</i>	<i>Wisdom, immortality</i>
<i>Gladiolus</i>	<i>Remembrance</i>	<i>Sunflower, tall</i>	<i>Haughtiness</i>
<i>Goldenrod</i>	<i>Good fortune</i>	<i>Sweet pea</i>	<i>Delicate pleasures</i>
<i>Hisbiscus</i>	<i>Delicate beauty</i>	<i>Tulip, yellow</i>	<i>Sunshine in your smile</i>
<i>Holly</i>	<i>Foresight</i>	<i>Violet</i>	<i>Loyalty, devotion</i>
<i>Hyacinth</i>	<i>Sport, game, play</i>	<i>Willow</i>	<i>Sadness</i>
<i>Hydrangea</i>	<i>Gratitude</i>	<i>Zinnia</i>	<i>Thoughts of absent friends</i>

